

argue that their gaming operations will be adversely impacted if this project is granted “land in trust.”

- The above tribes would like an opportunity to present their impact study to the Interior Secretary or the appropriate Administration officials in response to the study submitted by the Hudson tribes.

Fowler did not recall conveying to Ickes that these supporters also wanted an in-person meeting with Ickes himself. That point was made clear in O’Connor’s subsequent letter to Ickes, which was copied to Fowler.<sup>258</sup> According to O’Connor’s billing records, it also is a specific point he pursued with Mercer on at least six occasions in the five weeks after the April 28 meeting with Fowler.

## **2) DNC Contact with the Department of the Interior**

Probably within the same time frame as his contacts with Ickes (*i.e.*, a week or so after the April 28 meeting), Fowler recalls placing a phone call to Interior about the Hudson casino project. His staff assisted him in making the call, but he can recall neither who assisted him nor whom he called. He knows with certainty only that he did not call Secretary Babbitt. Fowler says he did not know DOI Chief of Staff Collier, but recognizes that Collier’s name was brought to his attention at the April 28 meeting, and acknowledges the possibility that it was Collier he called. Collier, likewise, recalls no such phone call, but does not rule out that it occurred, and concedes that he was the most likely point of contact for Fowler at Interior.

Fowler believes that the content of his communication with Interior was similar to what he related in his May 5 memo to Ickes. He could not recall whether he included the information that these people were supporters of the DNC or Democratic Party. Nonetheless, he defended the

---

<sup>258</sup>Copies of the May 8, 1995, letter from O’Connor to Ickes were found in DNC files, but Fowler has no recollection of having seen the letter in May 1995.